VK port-a-log – A brief guide. Version Moondarra_01

Disclaimer: This Android application is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, either express or implied, including without limitation any implied warranties of condition, uninterrupted use, merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, or non-infringement.

VK port-a-log is an Android application written by Peter VK3ZPF to assist with logging functions associated with SOTA, WWFF, VK Shires and portable activations. The application has been written for use on Android phones and tablets.

VK port-a-log is available for Android version 4.0 or later.

Most functions of the application should be self-evident.

Log entry cannot be saved if critical QSO data, such as call sign, frequency and mode are missing or not of the correct format or length.
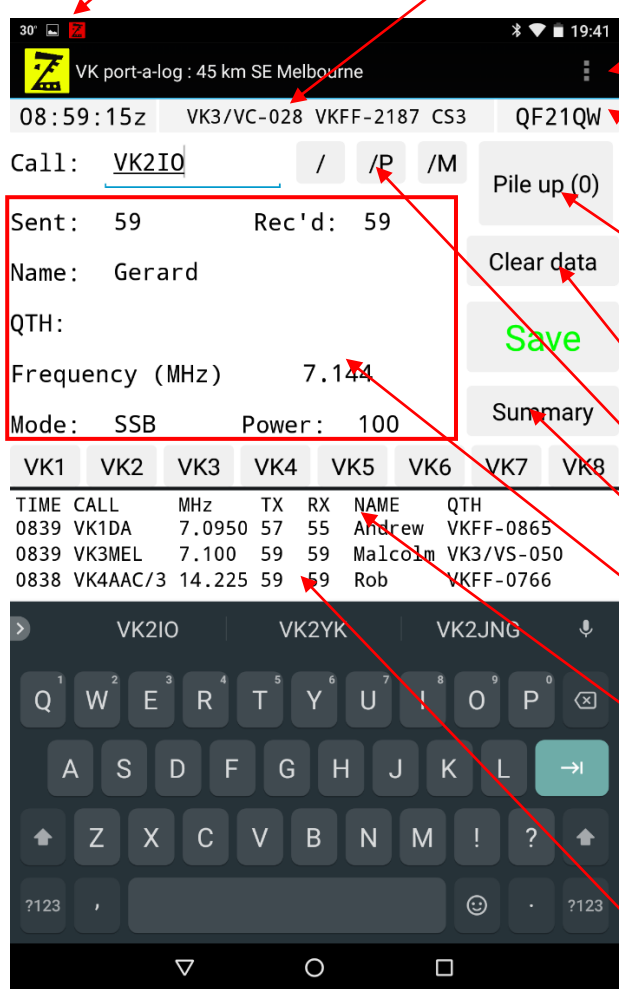
Log files can be copied or emailed using third party apps such as ES Explorer File Manager

VK port-a-log can only be installed if device allows Unknown sources…See **Settings/Security/unknown sources**

SOTAwatch and ParksnPeaks spot notifications

Your SOTA, WWFF and VK Shires references show here. See 'Activation Details'

Tap to access menu options (see figures 4 & 17) May be 'soft key' at bottom left or right on some devices. May also look like ≡ on some devices

Your Maidenhead locator – use Location menu option to derive from GPS. (locator on screen and in ADIF log) and GPS coordinates (in ADIF log only)

Tap button to enter up to 5 call signs during pile up First call sign entered is copied to Pile up screen (x) shows number of call signs in pile up screen See figure 3

Clears entered QSO data

Common suffixes for call sign

Current activation QSO summary

QSO info scrolls up and down – See figure 2

Hot keys – can be VK call prefix, numbers 0 - 9 or user defined Change format in 'Logger Settings' or tap and hold VK1 key to change format

Log of contacts for today. Can be scrolled up and down. Latest QSO always on top. Number of QSOs shown varies on size of device screen. Collapse keyboard to see more QSOs.

Tap QSO to edit contact.

Tap and hold QSO to delete contact.

Figure 1 - Main screen

```
Call:    |                / /P /M

Sent:   59        Rec'd:  59

Name:

QTH:

Frequency (MHz)

Mode:  SSB       Power:

SOTA ref: XXX    / XX     - 000

WWFF ref: VKFF       - 0000

Gridsquare:  XXnnYY

VK Shires ref: XX0

Notes:

QSL message: Thanks for the QSO
```

Figure 2 – QSO details

To speed up recurring entries, line four can be set to
any of the following fields;
QTH, SOTA ref, WWFF ref, Gridsquare, VK Shires ref.

Tap and hold on the text, i.e. **QTH**, to change or
'Logger settings, Miscellaneous settings, Logger line 4
options.

Tap in each field to enter QSO details.

Swipe up to access SOTA, WWFF, Gridsquare, VK shires
and Notes fields.

Default Sent and Received RS(T) can be set in 'Logger
Settings'.

Name will be populated from names.csv file if available

Call signs beginning with AX will use the name from the
same VK call sign if available

Frequency can be kHz or MHz see 'Logger settings,
Miscellaneous logger settings, Log frequency in kHz'

Slashed zero in call can be set in Logger settings,
Miscellaneous logger settings, Slashed zero'

Call, Frequency, and Mode are mandatory fields.

Maximum field lengths:
Call	20
RS(T)	10
Name	25
QTH	100
Frequency	10
Mode	5
Power	4
Notes	200
QSL message	200

Entries more than the maximum length are truncated.

SOTA, WWFF and VK Shires references must be correct
format as shown.

Default WWFF reference prefix can be set in 'Logger
settings'

A SOTA chaser entry is created when a SOTA reference
is entered.

QSL message format can be set in 'Logger setting, ADIF
options'

All QSO details are available in ADIF export file.

Mandatory fields are highlighted until completed.
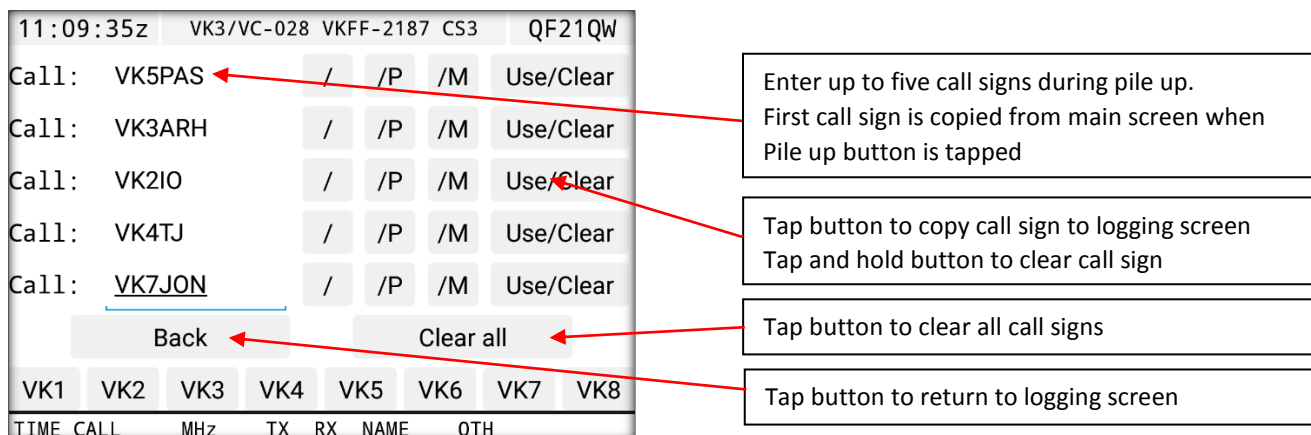
Save button changes to green when ready to save QSO.

Enter up to five call signs during pile up.
First call sign is copied from main screen when Pile up button is tapped

Tap button to copy call sign to logging screen
Tap and hold button to clear call sign

Tap button to clear all call signs

Tap button to return to logging screen

Figure 3 – Pile up screen

A names file is included on your device at **Device/sdcard/VKportalog/names/names.csv**

This file retains the operator name of each call sign worked where the name has been entered. This file may be edited with a simple text editor to add names. Please keep the format as shown below

Call,Name
VK3ZPF,Peter
VK3ARH,Allen
VK3KAB,Kevin

VK port-a-log will pre-fill the name on the logger screen if the name is already stored in names.csv.

If you change this name in the logger screen you are prompted if you wish to save the change.

Colour options:

Screen shots in these instructions are either;

- White on black
- Black on white

Colour options have not been extensively tested. If you are having troubles select Default.
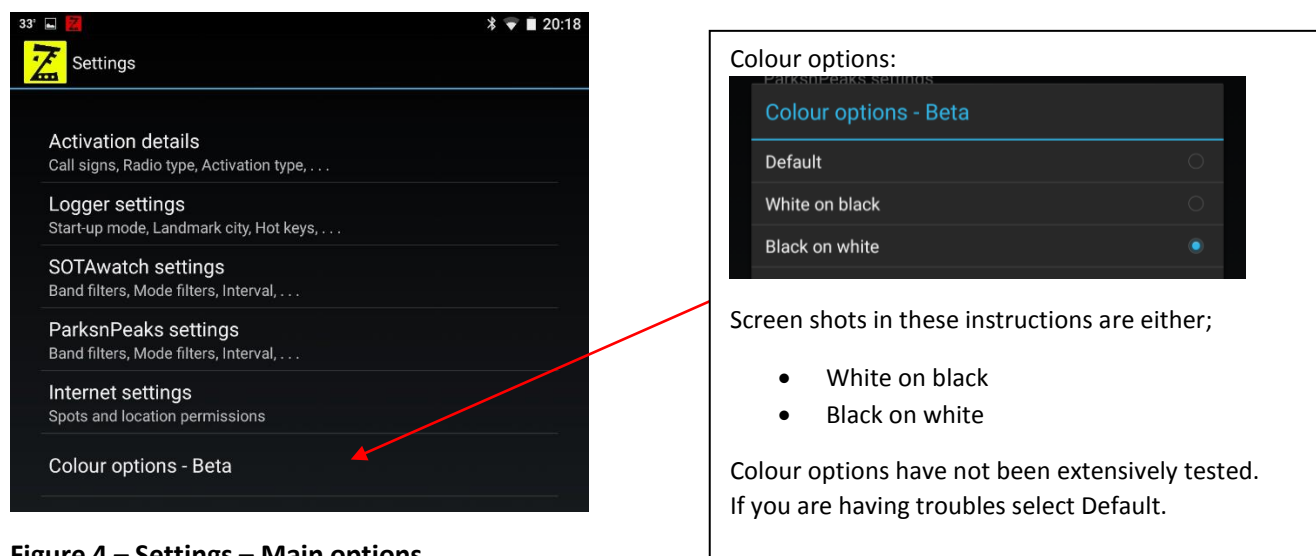
Figure 4 – Settings – Main options

Figure 5 – Settings – Activation details
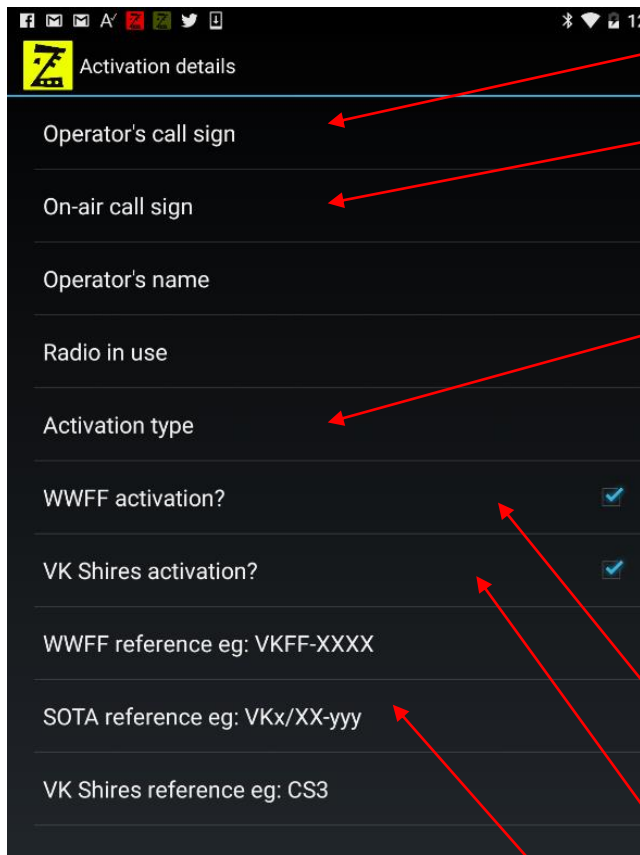
Your normal licensed call sign

The call sign used on air during the activation

Select appropriate activation type

- SOTA makes SOTA activator and ADIF logs
- Portable makes ADIF log
- QTHR makes ADIF log without GPS info or locator
- SOTA chaser file is made if any SOTA station is worked regardless of activation type chosen
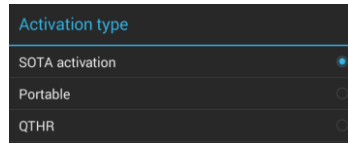
Check if activating a WWFF area
Creates separate ADIF activator file for each WWFF area activated each day.

Check if activating a VK Shires area
Reference used for logging and spots.

Activation references must be in the correct format.
e.g.:
WWFF   VKFF-0876
SOTA   VK3/VC-025
VK Shires   CS3

Figure 6 – Settings – Logger Settings

Sets the mode default operating mode

Sets reference city for distance description

Change hot keys format

Set method for getting Maidenhead and location info.

Sets which logger fields are returned to default for each new QSO

Sets which logger fields are cleared when field is tapped during QSO entry

Sets options for ADIF export files – see figure 7

Sets options for SOTA csv export files – see figure 8

Sets user defined values;

- Distance unit (km or miles)
- Call sign hot keys
- RS(T) hot key values
- Landmark city values
- Default Received WWFF prefix

Sets other logger options – see figure 9

Figure 7 – ADIF options
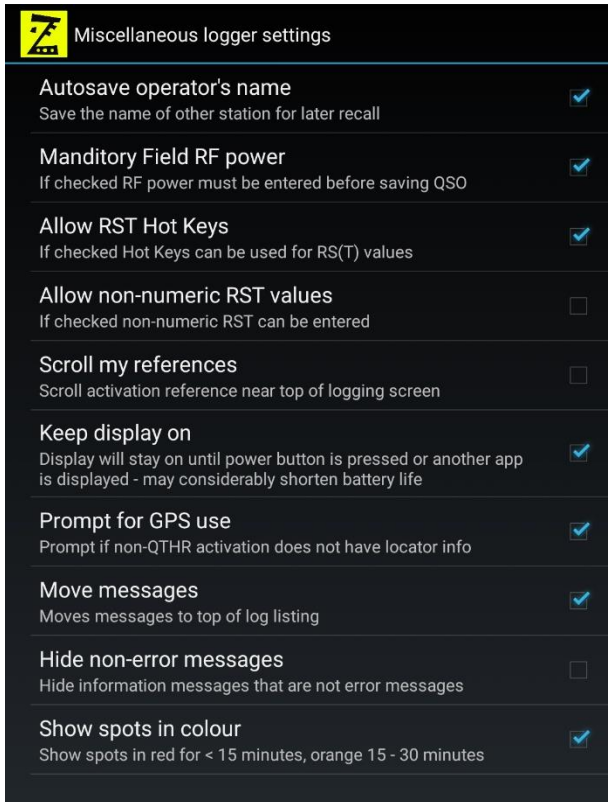

Figure 8 – SOTA csv options
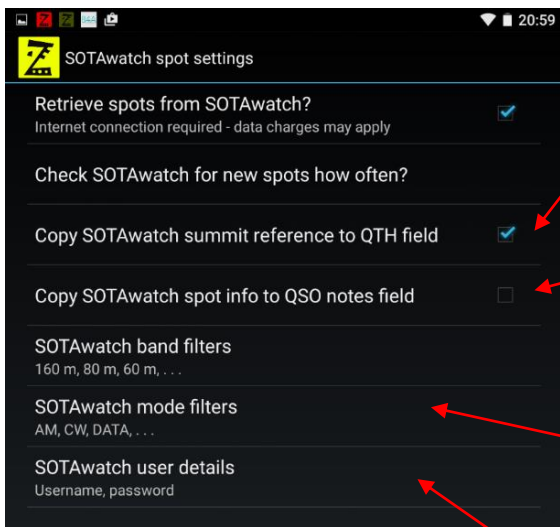
**Figure 9 – Miscellaneous logger options**

Figure 10 – SOTAwatch spot settings

If a SOTAwatch spot is tapped the spot info is copied to the relevant fields on QSO logger screen.

If this option is checked the summit reference is also copied to the QTH field.

If a SOTAwatch spot is tapped the spot info is copied to the relevant fields on QSO logger screen.

If this option is checked the spot info is also copied to the QSO notes field.

SOTAwatch spot filtering for band and mode.

NOTE: Filtering works by reading the content of each spot received.
Errors in spot data entered by others may cause some spots not to appear.

SOTAwatch username and password are required for posting spots. See figure 15.
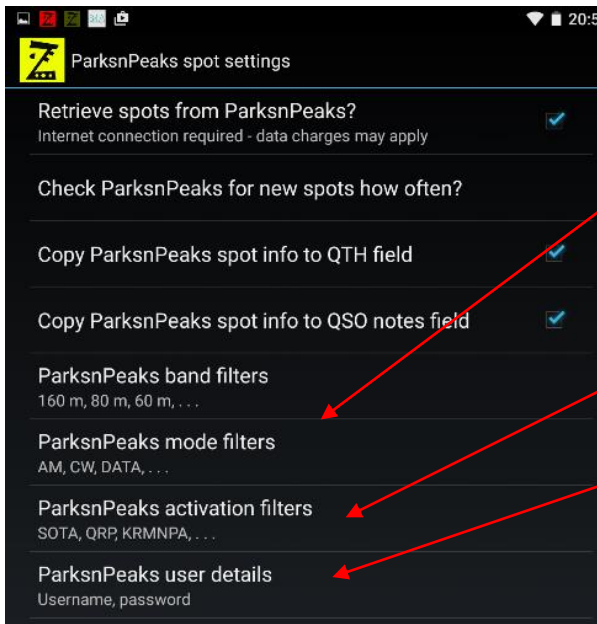
ParksnPeaks spot filtering for band and mode.

NOTE: Filtering works by reading the content of each spot received.
Errors in spot data entered by others may cause some spots not to appear.

Spot filtering for ParksnPeaks activation type: SOTA, QRP, KRMNPA, SANCPA VK & ZL WWFF and all WWFF spots.

ParksnPeaks username and password are required for posting spots. See figure 16.

Figure 11 – ParksnPeaks spot settings
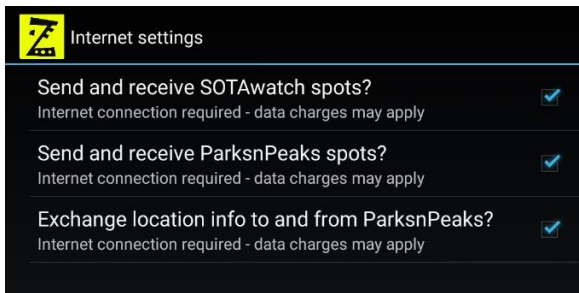
Check boxes to allow VK port-a-log access to the Internet for SOTAwatch and ParksnPeaks.

Data charges may apply

Figure 12 – Internet settings

Swipe left or right to move between the following screens;

- ParksnPeaks post
- SOTAwatch post
- QSO logging
- SOTAwatch spot
- ParksnPeaks spot screens.

Tap on any SOTAwatch or ParksnPeaks spot to transfer info to QSO logging screen.

Band, mode and activation type filters are set in 'Spotter settings'.

Figure 13 – SOTAwatch spot screen
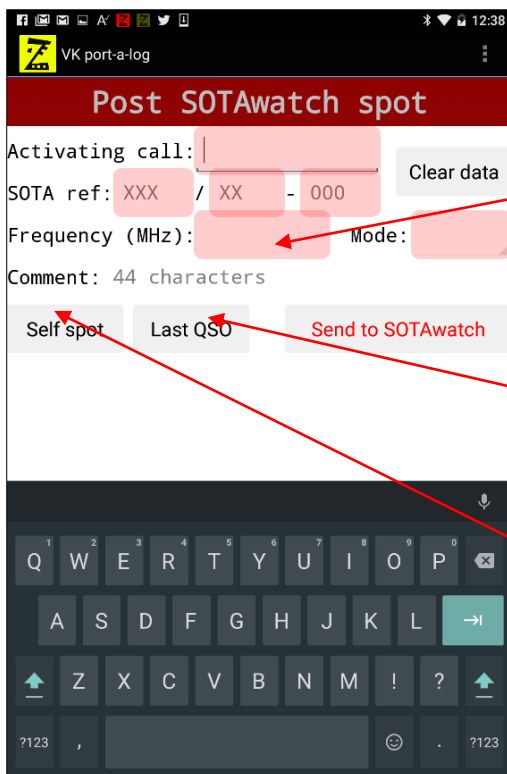
Figure 14 – ParksnPeaks spot screen
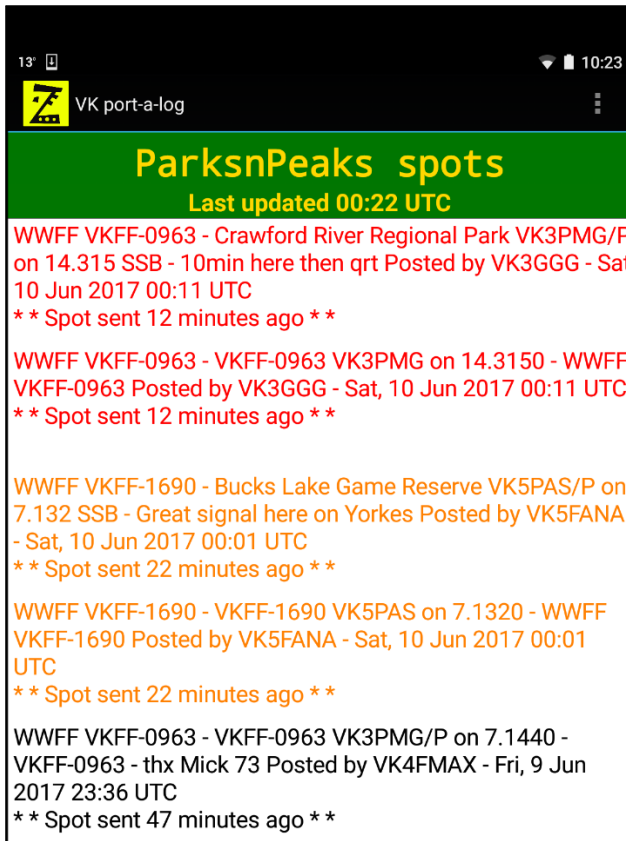
NOTES:

Spot data is sourced from www.sotawatch.org and www.parksnpeaks.org

Errors in spot data entered by others may cause some spots not to be shown.

Spots sourced from the WWFF cluster do not contain mode information.

Figure 15 – SOTAwatch post spot screen

Enter details to send spot via Internet to SOTAwatch.

Mandatory fields are highlighted.

Comment field is limited to 44 characters

Send button text changes from red to black after sufficient information is entered.
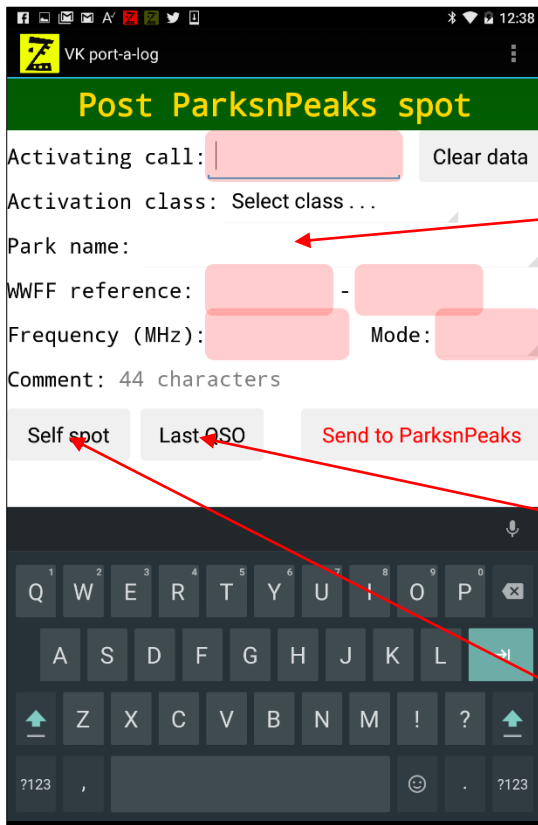
Last QSO copies details from last QSO in log ready to send spot to SOTAwatch.

** Check all details before tapping Send **

Self spot copies activation details from settings and frequency from QSO logging screen ready to send spot to SOTAwatch.

** Check all details before tapping Send **

Enter details to send spot via Internet to ParksnPeaks.

Class, Park and VK Shire details can be selected from drop down lists or WWFF or VK Shire reference entered.

Mandatory fields are highlighted.

Comment field is limited to 44 characters

Send button text changes from red to black after sufficient information is entered.

Last QSO copies details from last QSO in log ready to send spot to ParksnPeaks.

Non-required fields are removed.

** Check all details before tapping Send **

Self spot copies activation details from settings and frequency from QSO logging screen ready to send spot to the ParksnPeaks site.

Non-required fields are removed.

** Check all details before tapping Send **
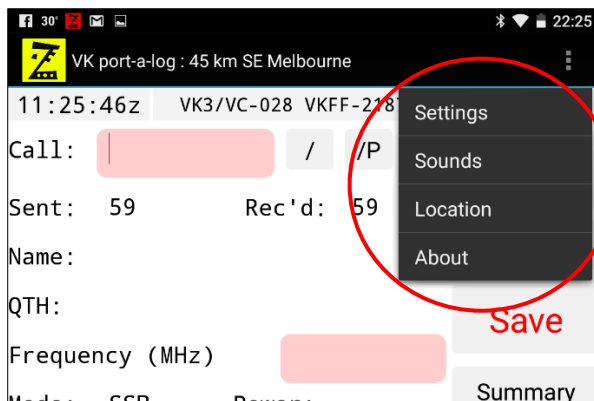
Figure 16 – ParksnPeaks post spot screen
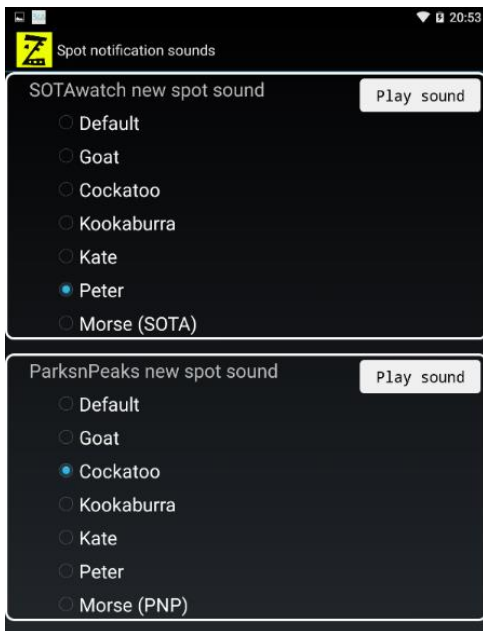

Figure 17 – Menu options

Select notification sound for each new spot being received.

Select different sounds for SOTAwatch and ParksnPeaks
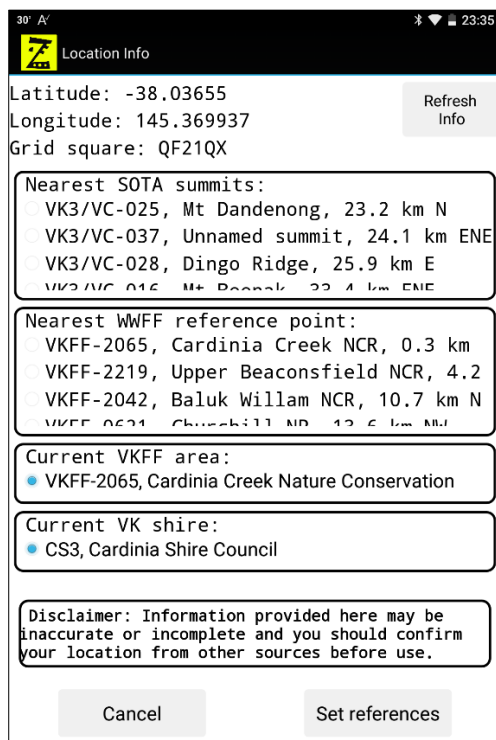
Kate and Peter are text to speech voice announcements.

Figure 18 – Spot notification sounds

When Location Info page is opened the internal GPS is used to get the current coordinates and the Maidenhead gridsquare is calculated.

If Internet is available, the nearest five SOTA summits and the nearest five VKFF or NZFF references points within 80 km are retrieved.

If the current coordinates are within a VKFF area this is shown separately.

If the current coordinates are within a VK Shire area this is shown separately.

SOTA, WWFF and Shire references can be selected and then copied to the activation details by tapping the Set references button.

Figure 19 – Location Info

External keyboard short cuts

<CTRL>	**C**	Clear data
<CTRL>	**S**	Save QSO
<CTRL>	**<**	Scroll left
<CTRL>	**>**	Scroll right
<CTRL>	**U**	Show summary

<CTRL>	**C**	Clear data
<CTRL>	**E**	Self spot
<CTRL>	**L**	Last QSO
<CTRL>	**S**	Send spot to SOTAwatch
<CTRL>	**<**	Scroll left
<CTRL>	**>**	Scroll right

<CTRL>	**C**	Clear data
<CTRL>	**E**	Self spot
<CTRL>	**L**	Last QSO
<CTRL>	**S**	Send spot to Parksnpeaks
<CTRL>	**<**	Scroll left
<CTRL>	**>**	Scroll right

Log files are saved at **Device/sdcard/VKportalog/yyyymmddK** – new folder and files are made for each local day.

Log files can be copied or emailed using third party apps such as ES Explorer File Manager
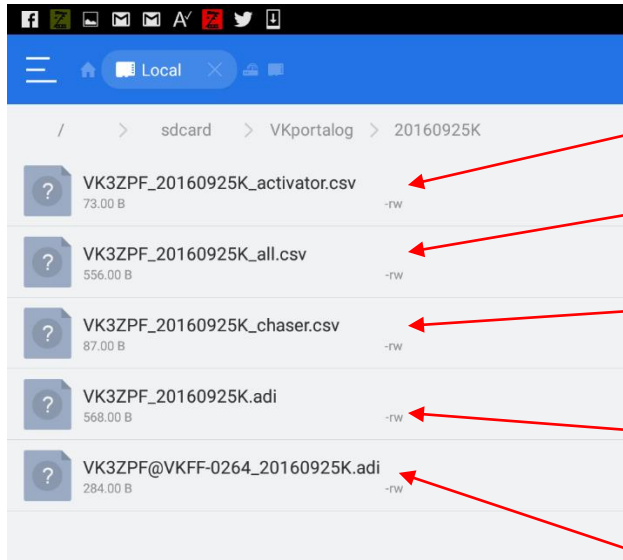
SOTA CSV activator file ready for upload to sotadata.org.uk

CSV file containing all data for the local day – Can be opened in Excel.

SOTA CSV chaser file ready for upload to sotadata.org.uk

ADIF file ready for import to third party logging software.
Contains all QSOs for the local day.

ADIF file ready for import to WWFF program.
Contains only QSOs made from WWFF area mentioned in file name.

Note: As at January 2018;

- WWFF does not accept chaser entries
- VK Shires does not have a defined logging format
- KRMNPA does not have a defined logging format
- SANPACP does not have a defined logging format

For the latest info visit **www.vk3zpf.com/vk-port-a-log**